

Message Text

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42

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 191111 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 99

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN NEW NEW YORK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1728

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR PFOR EFIS SZ SW IC UK

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER WICKMAN BACKS ICELAND IN PRINCIPLE IN
FISH WAR

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER WICKMAN, REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN
RIKSDAG MAY 18, SUPPORTED ICELAND IN PRINCIPLE IN ITS ATTEMPT TO
ASSERT AUTHORITY OVER FISHERIES BEYOND 12- MILE LIMIT. HE INDICATED
SWEDEN WILL URGE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO JOIN FORCES AT LAW- OF- SEA
CONFERENCE TO WORK FOR SOLUTION WHICH WOULD PRESERVE ICELAND'S
INTERESTS. MEANWHILE, WICKMAN APPEALED TO UK AND ICELAND TO REACH
TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT PENDING FINAL SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. WICKMAN REPLIED FORMALLY IN RIKSDAG MAY 18 TO INTERPELLATION
BY OPPOSITION DEPUTY WHO ASKED FOR GOS POLICY STATEMENT ON ICELAND'S

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CLAIM TO JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES UP TO 50 MILES FROM COAST. IN PREPARED REPLY WICKMAN NOTED (AS REPORTED IN PRESS) THAT MODERN COMMERCIAL FISHING TECHNIQUES RAISED POSSIBILITY OF GRAVE DEPLETION OF NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES AND RAISED QUESTIONS OF EQUITY AMONG COMPETING INTERESTS. HE SAID MODERN FISHING FLEETS ENORMOUS CAPACITY HAD HAD DISASTROUS EFFECT ON COASTAL STATES' ABILITY TO PRESERVE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SEA.

2. WICKMAN SAID THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE MATTER FOR COUNTRIES FOR WHOM FISHERIES ARE DECISIVELY SIGNIFICANT FOR THE ECONOMY. " ICELAND IS SUCH A COUNTRY," HE SAID. " ALL THESE COUNTRIES HAVE A JUSTIFIED CLAIM TO PRIORITY TO FISHING BEYOND THE 12- MILE LIMIT."

3. WICKMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER UK- ICELAND CONFRONTATION IN ISSUE. " WE APPEAL TO BOTH PARTIES TO STRIVE TO REACH A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT WHILE AWAITING A CONCLUSIVE SOLUTION," HE SAID. " THE SITUATION IS EXTRAORDINARILY CRITICAL BUT WE HOPE FOR AN ARRANGEMENT THAT MEETS ICELAND'S LEGITIMATE INTERESTS.

4. WICKMAN SAID PLANS EXIST FOR A COMMON NORDIC ACTION IN SUPPORT ICELAND AT FORTHCOMING LAW- OF- SEA CONFERENCE. " THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF NORDIC COOPERATION IS SOLIDARITY," HE SAID. " THAT CERTAINLY APPLIES FOR A SMALL COUNTRY WHICH FACES THE PROBLEM OF SURVIVAL IN TOLERABLE FASHION."

5. A RIKSDAG MEMBER REPRESENTING A SWEDISH FISHING CONSTITUENCY ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER FOLLOW- UP QUESTION IN WHICH HE DECLARED GREAT CONCERN OVER PROSPECT OF SEEMINGLY LIMITLESS EXTENSION OF NATIONAL FISHING SOVEREIGNTY. WICKMAN REPLIED: " WE SHALL NOT RECOMMEND ANY SOLUTION WHICH COULD BE SUSPECTED OF DOING SERIOUS INJURY TO THE INTERESTS WHICH HERR ABERG, WITH ALL JUSTICE, SPEAKS FOR."

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LONDON
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